

Example of Golf Etiquette

Safety first!

- Whenever you're swinging a club, be very careful to keep a safe distance from others. Do not practise swinging in the direction of others in case you hit the ground and spray something toward them.
- Always wait until the group in front of you is out of range before you hit. If your ball is flying toward someone the traditional golf warning is to call out: "FORE"!
- Take note of the safety suggestions in golf carts and drive carefully. Usually, courses prefer [or require] you to keep the cart on the established cart-paths.
- Although golf can be aggravating at times it's very poor manners, and obviously dangerous, to ever throw clubs.

Pace is important!

- As you are walking to your next shot and as others are hitting, prepare for your turn and be ready. Do not keep others waiting.
- The golfer farthest from the green or hole always hits first. A variation of this rule in casual golf is called "ready golf." This means that whoever is ready to hit first, does so. [Your group should discuss their preference of play before starting the round.]
- If you hit an errant shot and cannot find your ball, by the rules of golf you have five minutes to find it. However, if the course is crowded and the group behind is ready to hit, golf etiquette suggests waving them up and letting them play through while you continue looking for your ball.
- Similarly, your group should keep up to the group in front. If they get too far ahead of you, and there is another group right behind you waiting, it is polite to allow that faster group to play through.

continued

Example of Golf Etiquette (continued)

- As mentioned, if you are using a power cart, the usual course rule is the “90-degree-rule”—you drive the cart on the path—parallel to the ball (90 degrees), leave the cart on the path, and walk to your ball with your club. But, always take a couple of clubs with you so you don’t waste time returning to the cart for a different club.
- When your group finishes on the green, leave for the next tee immediately so players behind can start. Do not keep them waiting. (Always discuss the previous hole and mark down scores while waiting at the next tee.)

Learn about “Course Care”!

- Train yourself to always replace divots in the fairway, repair ball marks on the green, and use the rake to smooth out traps after walking and hitting in the sand.

Remember golf “etiquette,” too!

- When another player is hitting or putting—do not talk!
- Yelling on the course is not a good idea—you could disturb the players in your group or others on the course.
- Many players prefer that you do not stand in a place that casts a shadow on their putting line as this can be distracting to them.
- Similarly, do not walk over the line of another player’s putt, in case this damages or changes the putting surface. (Step over the putting line, or walk around behind the player.)

Power Cart Etiquette

- If you and your companion in the cart have balls on opposite sides of the fairway, drive to first ball and leave that player there with his club, then drive to the second ball. After you both have hit, get back into the cart and drive further down the fairway.
- Take note of the golf course “cart rules.” As mentioned, some courses will post “cart-path only” signs; others will ask you to observe the “90-degree rule.”
- Never drive a power cart too close to a putting green. Generally, courses will have signs directing carts around the green area, but staying on the cart-paths is usually the best idea.